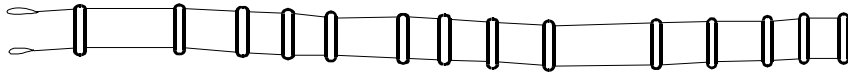




# B e l o w !



Winter 1988



The Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club

Well Christmas is upon us and thoughts are turned more towards surviving the 'festive' season, rather than underground excursions. To help you while-away the long winter hours (after cleaning your tackle and de-waxing your ear plugs in readiness for next years Club trips) this issue contains a few light hearted quizzes. Based on mining and caving naturally.

The crossword puzzle and one of the word squares are just for fun, however the Competition Square is genuine. So please send me your answers just a list of the 20 words will do, along with your name and address.

The copy of the video tape I have to give to the winner is a VMS one, so if your video is different (e.g.: Betamax or Phillips 2000) then let me know so I can change it.

Finally I would like to say to all Club members and readers.

Best Wishes  
for a  
Merry Christmas



## Constitution

At the Special General Meeting of the Club, held at the Last Inn, Newport, on Friday December 2nd. (prior to the December Ordinary Meeting) the proposed changes to the Club Constitution were passed, along with minor corrections relating to typographical errors.

## Black Country Mine

New developments with a mining theme are currently taking place at the Black Country Museum. On the museum site, a huge crater has been excavated ready for the construction of a concrete underground mining exhibit. The idea being that only by this approach can a safe environment be created for members of the public to view mine workings.

Near to the museum site work has started on another canal tunnel by D.C.Thompson. This new tunnel will link Castle Mill basin on the canal to Singer Cavern, providing a round trip for the Dudley Canal Trusts electric trip boats.

There was at one time a plan to linking the Museums underground exhibit to Dark (144) Cavern of the limestone workings, via an existing tramway tunnel that ends at an underground wharf. From there a boat would go via existing and new tunnels to Singer Cavern. If this plan ever happens it would provide the public with a good insight to the size of the limestone workings at Dudley.

# Council of Europe Colloquy on Mining

## Engineering Monuments

In September 1988 the Council of Europe held a "colloquy" at Bochum mining Museum, Germany on Mining Engineering Monuments as a Cultural Heritage.

Over 100 delegates attended from 14 European countries including 6 delegates from Britain. The six included Stafford Lisley from Newcastle University, Peter White (English Heritage), Brian Davies (Director, Big Pit Mining Museum) and the writer.

Each morning session was taken up by a series of reports, one from each European country describing what had been achieved in the country in mining preservation terms. The quality of the papers was variable some were highly academic others showed that much actual preservation work was being done on the surface and in many cases underground too.

The number of show-mines has mushroomed. Germany alone has more than 30 but even this figure does not exceed that of Britain.

The afternoon sessions involved visits to German mines both preserved and operating, and to mining conservation areas. The Ramsbeck Lead and Silver mine was visited and a reception-barbecue held in the village of Andreast, so named by homesick metal miners who had migrated here from the village in the Hertz Mountains of that name.

The many "receptions" (consisting usually of a meal and speeches) put on by the various mining groups and local authorities were most memorable - each tried to be different. On two occasions the courses and speeches were punctuated by items from a 9-piece miners band in full "miners' uniform. On other occasions the evening session was held in a recently converted Hoffman brick-kiln, a museum gallery, a miners bath house and in the open air!

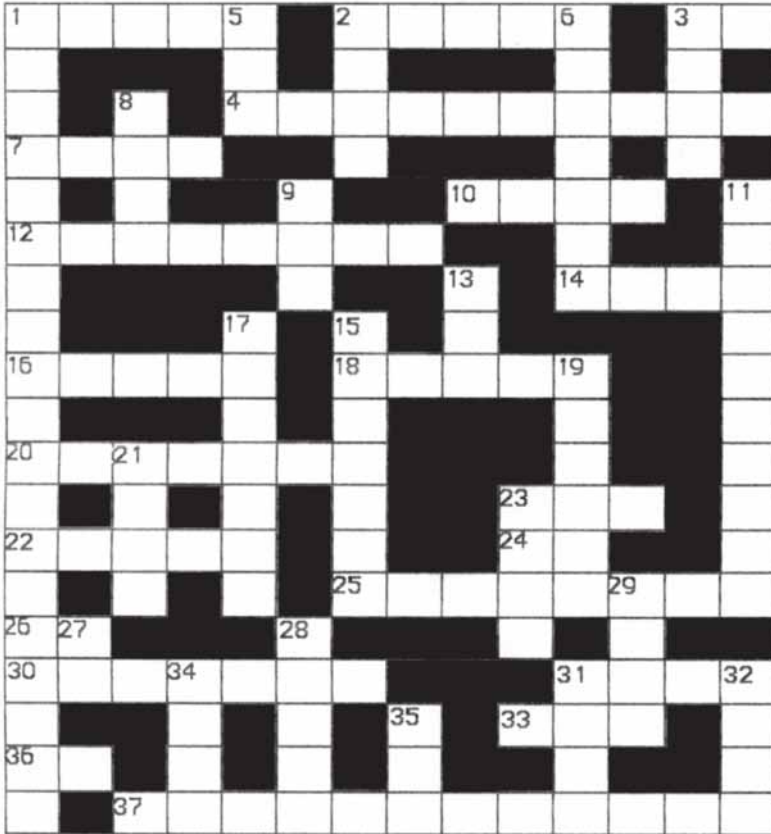
The main work of the colloquy however revolved around the Papers and the collection of these forms a real "mine" of information, still to be properly assessed. Many preservation groups circulated their literature, these ranged from the proposals to preserve a single building to a complete mine (e.g.: the £30 million project at Zollverein Colliery) and also to almost complete mining fields (French slate, Alsace Potash and the Limburg Coalfield).

The discussion sessions were most useful and at the final one recommendations were drawn up for presentation to the Council of Europe. In all a most interesting week, should anyone wish to know more, please contact the writer.

(The final "colloquy" in this series is to be held in Durham in 1989, on the topic "Preserving industrial records and archives").

I.J.Brown

C r o s s  
W o r d P u z z l e



- 31. Shropshire coal mines developed a long one (4)
- 33. Angle of tilt of a rock bed (3)
- 36. \_\_\_ cast (2)
- 37. A caver specialising in cave sciences, basically anyone who explores underground (12)

Down

- 1. It's all the rage for climbing purposes (6,4,9)
- 2. Completely flooded section of cave passage (4)
- 3. Rock exposed at the surface, out \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 5. Man made hill, such a waste (3)
- 6. Highly productive Salop Barytes mine in 1930\*s, think of Badger (7)

Across

- 1. The Well, Chapel and George's. {5}
- 2. Drainage tunnel (5)
- 3. Chemical name of chief mineral in flowstone (2)
- 4. wooden forcing or lifting setts (7,3)
- 7. Underground area, seems such a waste (4)
- 10. Wet or dry, one is a must for Dyfyngwm (4)
- 12. Such a tiny object, yet you can climb on it (8)
- 14. Collective headgear (4)
- 16. Vertical cave descent (5)
- 18. Underground pit for men or materials (5)
- 20. Revolving spiral classifier or sieve. Black Tom has one (7)
- 22. Cave Boulders do this (5)
- 23. Do this for new routes (3)
- 24. \_\_\_ Bye (2)
- 25. Horizontal climb at a high level (8)
- 26. Would you free climb Lordshill Engine Shaft? (2)
- 30. Sloping Mine Passage (7)

- 8. Extreme end of any mine where men work the vein or seam {4 }
- 9. What they are after in metal mines (3)
- 11. Point at which an underground stream emerges (10)
- 13. Machine for circulating air (3)
- 15. Depression in a limestone area, may be a cave (7)
- 17. Narrow vertical fissure, no smoke here (7)
- 19. Once steam now electric (6)
- 21. Welsh name for cave (4)
- 23. The only way to pass 2 down (4)
- 27. Where you put tackle (2)
- 28. Only way to rest at Minera (Cabin Shaft), sounds like tacklemaster (5)
- 29. Mine owners hope to do this with benefits following improvements (4)
- 31. Prospectors start off on this and a prayer (4)
- 32. Long channel bringing water to a mine (4)
- 34. Carbide or electric (4)
- 35. Group responsible for coordinating underground help (1,1,1)

### Opencast Sites

Two adjoining opencast sites are now operational near Dawley. The Newdale Opencast Site (Shepherd Hill Contract) is working the Big Flint to Little Flint sequences of coal seams. Some old workings are visible. The old tramway bridge adjoining the site has been preserved. London Fields Company are operating the other site (Newdale Halt Opencast Site) which is in the same geological sequences.

### Lilleshall Shaft

It is proposed to sink a shallow shaft into the old limestone workings at Lilleshall during the autumn of 1988 as part of a major stability study. The SCMC plan of Jackie Parrs Mine (1966) is being used as a basis.

### Shropshire Mammoths

The Mammoth exhibition at Cosford has proved very popular. Although it closed in October it is likely to be moved to another venue in Shropshire.

### Land Reclamation

IJB gave a paper on "Land Reclamation Recreation Potential - The Shropshire Experience" to a conference in Durham in July. A copy is available in the IGMT Library. Similarly there is a copy of the paper given to the ADAS conference at Newport entitled "Geology and Mining in Telford - A Review".

### Fullers Earth Mine

The 'Fullers Earth' Mine at Coalbrookdale has been drained and is now freely accessible. Perhaps a good Club trip?

### Dunge Colliery

Research has been carried out into the surviving building at Dunge Colliery, Broseley. Some believe it to have been a winding engine house. There are doubts however as rope holes leave at each end and the shaft is to the side.

### Lincoln Hill

Drilling continues into the Lincoln Hill Mines but very few new voids have been reported.

### Ironbridge Gorge Model

IGMT is working on a large model of the Ironbridge Gorge as it was when visited by the Duke of Orange in 1796. It is hoped to show the position of mines, quarries and works at that date ! (Lets hope they look after this model better than others they have had Ed.)

## Christmas Joke



How many  
Cavers does it take  
to change a  
lightbulb ?



Answer: At least 5

- 2 to bolt and climb, 1 to supervise the lifeline and relay information to the 2 person back-up team carrying tackle and spare light bulbs.

# Word Squares

W	S
W	S

You are all probably familiar with word squares, here are two examples. The first is a 'warm up' square and contains the 20 hidden words listed beside it. The second square is a special competition square.

E O W V J K M C F G N I T T E S E R I F  
 O L Q R S D B A R F S B F V O R P H W B  
 N Q D T V O Q O M G P J N A I Q X F N T  
 K R O D G P K I D R E D L U O B O B W F  
 X P K V U P L E D E Q S Y S L S B F K T  
 E Y P Y H B F U X E T L P H S Q X L I F  
 O Q S B F V O N N B F A X F N W B A B M  
 U L F Y D N S O O G D C I W B O O D B A  
 C L S Y A U T F F Z A C O T I A T D L H  
 S U I B U S G Z V W J E O B I C S E E K  
 Z E A T W T M E U W P K G M C V A R E D  
 E C Y O A O R A D K T N B W A N C U N H  
 X C L Z Q C O O O B I C E L V M N W I E  
 B F I Z D U K W G D Q T E E O Z E G B B  
 Z T A T D R I L A L S Y O D S K P R R E  
 E W R B T N U E E U O Q T U E T O J U D  
 P S C A J A H M I M H D K V I Q I M T J  
 C W E C W B R T J E M G Y D O M E U W M  
 S W B O L T C B J C T M A T H L T R M T  
 Q Q E B Y Z H X Y W W C E U E A C P D O

These are the hidden words

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| FIRESETTING | FLOWSTONE |
| OPENCAST    | BRATTICE  |
| HEADING     | TURBINE   |
| WETSUIT     | KIBBLE    |
| TACKLE      | CABAN     |
| STOPE       | DRUM      |
| BOLT        |           |
| TROGLODYTE  |           |
| VITIATED    |           |
| BOULDER     |           |
| LADDER      |           |
| BUDDLE      |           |
| ADIT        |           |
| BED         |           |

## Christmas Competition



This word square contains 20 hidden words, none of the words are less than 6 letters long and no abbreviations have been used.

When you have found all 20 words, send your answers to the Editor (address on back page).

The first correct answer out of the tackle bag on March 1st will win a copy of I.A.Recordings video cassette 'The New Dudley Tunnel', which follows the construction of the 1984 canal tunnel at Dudley (work has already started on the 1989 canal tunnel !).

S V E H A M X X T J R L W H O L N T J S  
 I D P P H R E A T I C U B T P U W B Q D  
 H G I Q G A L E N A H T P V R F L W N N  
 H E L V V P P T C X X Y T I K O Z K N B  
 G R L B M V I S O C S R V I W I L M S P  
 A A A V R G I N G I N G O E P V S T V A  
 W L R L E U O U Y F J M R J F J K U O U  
 A Z Y I D E J V U R E N I B A R A K R H  
 P P N E N W Z X D Z J P U U W Q G X A P  
 E T R S E F M E B K N C Q B P I P R X K  
 X L E B C U R J E E K I L B L W N I I Y  
 E O D A S C V G W U H O A I W E V G U P  
 N S N F E R I L S B Q I K T S S E U B V  
 E I U O D D R O K R I S I S P Y N L E V  
 L F A T H O M Z B X B T E Z F A K I L G  
 Y E L O P Y A M V O T E I B D C C S Y T  
 T S T A M P S G H S U M K P T E S S K V  
 E T I C L A C N S P C P P B T R L O V L  
 C Z V V O Q Q G S U G L B M R U L F G T  
 A V Z W M Q A S A K I E S P D N G H M O

# Great Rock (Shiny Ore) Mine, Devon

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Great Rock or 'Shiny Ore' Mine is situated at Hennock (191 SX 8256 8155) not far from Newton Abbot. The mine started in 1902 working micaceous haematite, initially for the iron industry and later for use in rust-proof paint.

The mine closed in 1969 and the site is now covered with trees (noble conifers). The approach road to the mine is plastered with 'Private Property' signs however it is possible to reach the site by a public footpath from Hennock village. Once near the mine, by following a footpath round the contour of the hill rather than over it 3 open levels can be found - although they are very overgrown and hard to spot, level 'C' was only discovered by an incredible blast of cold air coming from the undergrowth.

Level 'A' went in more or less a straight line for about 150' reaching a flooded winze that completely blocked the way forward. On one side of the winze and above it there appeared to be chambers but it was not possible to see into either of them. With the aid of a lifeline or plank it would be quite possible to reach the side chamber. There seemed to be a modern metal step fixed to the far wall to allow access to the other side of the winze from the chamber. Looking down into the flooded winze, there appeared to be a chain with a kibble, Pete took a photograph into the water and the picture seems to confirm this.

Level 'B' was flooded, due to a mound of earth at the entrance,

it would have been possible to wade but time did not permit us to venture in. From its construction this level looked older than level 'A'.

Level 'C' was round the hill from the other levels and actually on the side of a fairly steep valley. This level was discovered by the very strong blast of cold air coming from the bushes in front of the entrance. At the entrance were the remains of a grilled gateway, also numbered surveying markers were bolted to the roof and charted the route from the entrance to the main stope.

The level split at various points but mainly reached blind headings. The two stopes were interesting, both were quite narrow, hardly wider than the passageway. One contained a steel ladder, while the other had a line of bolts complete with belay plates fixed up the whole of its near vertical height (estimated about 50 feet) to what looked to be a hatch. There also seemed to be levels near the top of the stope.

Unfortunately we were not equipped to climb the stope and we did not have enough time to explore the level that continued on from the foot of the stope. We did have a walk over the top of the hill to see if it was possible to locate shafts that might give access to higher workings (which are marked on the map), but apart from a couple of interesting depressions we were unsuccessful.

Peter Eggleston  
and Kelvin Lake

Fig. 1

**Sketch Plan of Great Rock Mine**

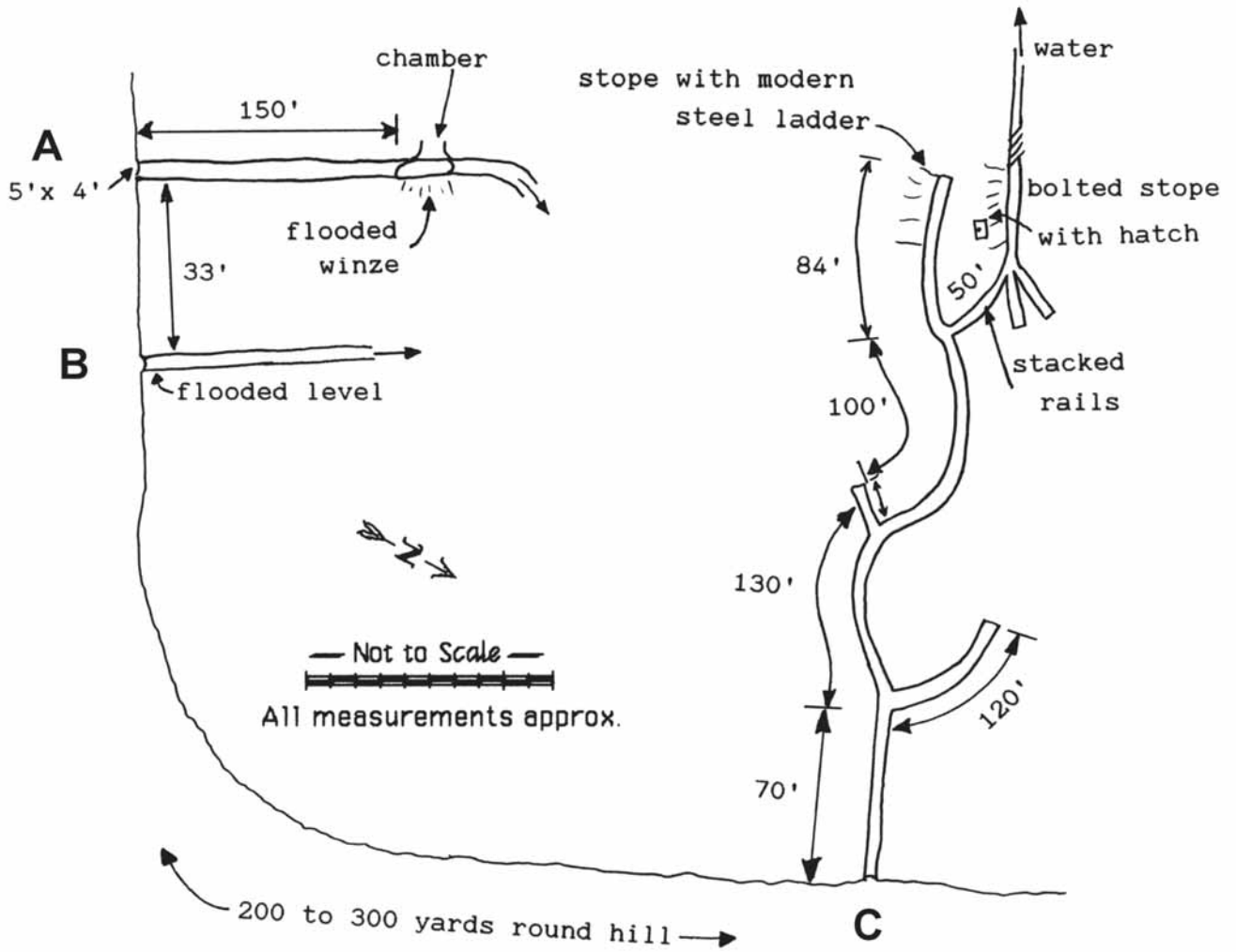
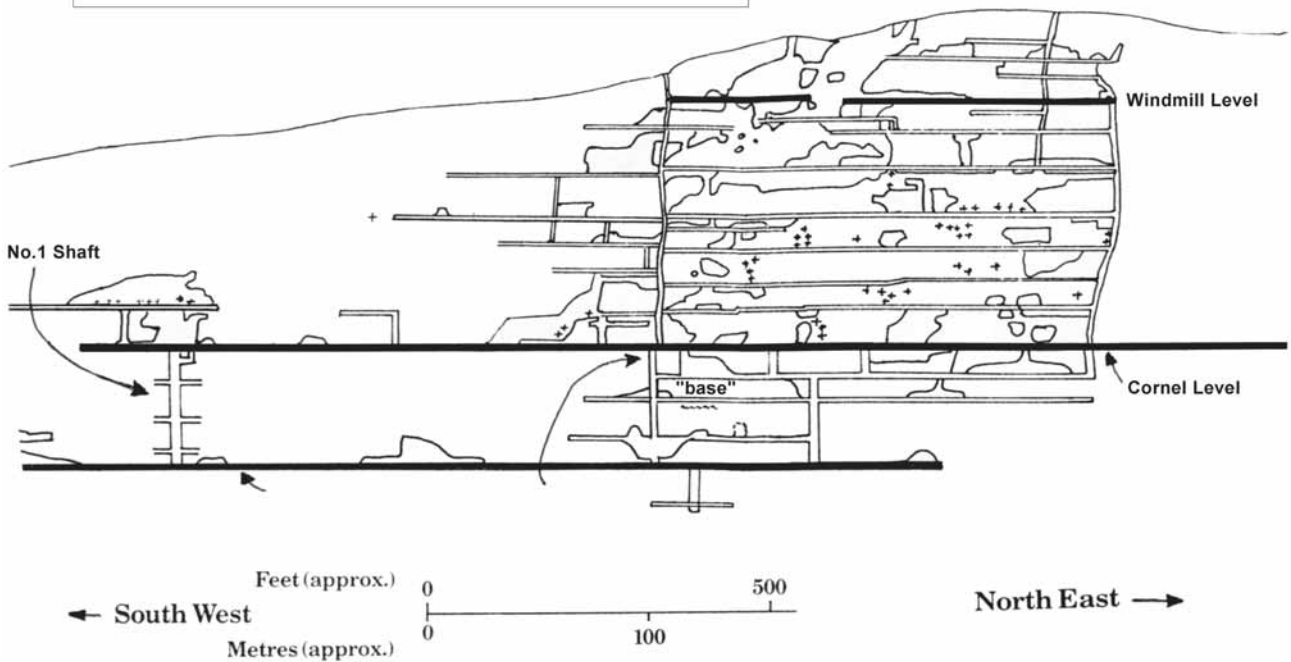


Fig. 2

**Section of Clogau Gold Mine**



# Clogau St. Davids Gold Mine

**Members Present:** Neal Rushton, Alan Robinson, Peter Eggleston, Edwin Thorpe, Kelvin Lake, Steve Holding

The Club was invited in early October to visit Clogau St. Davids Gold Mine and explore some in-accessible workings for the new owners who wished re-open part of the mine to the public.

The party travelled to Bontddu on Saturday October 1st, arriving about midday. After meeting Jim the mine manager in the pub, now called 'The Half-Way House' (which is well worth a visit as it has been done-up on a mining theme) we travelled up to the Cornel Level of the mine (124 SH 672 200).

Making use of the old Miners dry to change in, we made our way with guidance from Jim to the top of the No.2 shaft. The owners are hoping to open the lowest level (Fig.2 'A') to take trains of tourists, however at the time of the visit the No.1 Shaft was blocked with fill, although they had managed to remove most of it.

Our task was to try and descend from the Cornel Level via No.2 Shaft if possible to the lowest level and establish the depth of any water that might be backed up behind the fill at the bottom of No.1 Shaft, before the miners dug through it. It sounds easy, but it took the complete 2 days to achieve !

On the Saturday, Neal and Alan bolted and rigged the No.2 Shaft for an SRT descent, slightly

hampered by a rubble covered wooden platform over the shaft. At the same time Kelvin, Peter and Edwin rigged a ladder down the third winze in from No.2 shaft making use of a nearby rock pillar for a belay. Kelvin descended and found that the floor between here and No.2 had collapsed into a stope so there was no chance of reaching No.2 from there. In the other direction the level was intact with another winze to the next level, but a lack of suitable belay points.

Neal, Alan and Steve were still working on the tricky rig around No.2 Shaft, so Peter, Edwin and Kelvin rigged a ladder down the adjacent winze. Kelvin descended into the foggy depths, passing round the over-hanging lip and reaching an intermediate ledge about 25 feet down, 5 feet wide and about 20 feet long (not marked on the plan), which appeared to have been used as a store, with the remains of tools, timber and odd lengths of metal. At this point the ladder snaked around the rock pillar supporting the level above, thus making the next section of descent a little tricky. About 25 feet below the ledge was a traming level, which divided around the pillar forming a stope on one side and a level on the other, a feature repeated at lower levels. The stope was in a poor state being almost completely blocked by debris.

The level proved more interesting, it contained the remains of a 3-sided end tipping truck, although photographs were taken, it was so foggy they have not been very successful.



## Clogau St. Davids Gold Mine Cont.

Beyond the truck the level ended in a very poor edge on the other side of the floor collapse viewed from the first ladder descent. In the end of the level towards No.2 Shaft were various tools, but also a small kibble. This was an interesting find, because set in the roof above the Cornel Level and over the stope was what seemed like parts of a winding set-up, also photographs in the pub, showed the miners standing around a small kibble about the same size as the one discovered. Raising it to the Cornel Level was a bit of a struggle, thank goodness it was empty !

Just before we finished for the day, Alan was able to make a brief descent of No.2 Shaft and managed to get 2 levels down after clearing away a lot of rubble and debris in the Shaft, which in places was more of a narrow stope than shaft. Stemples, air pipes and old ladders also added to the congestion in the lower part of the shaft.

After an excellent meal at the pub we spent the night at the Post Office in Bontddu, which did bed and breakfast. Unfortunately there were 4 beds for 5 of us (Steve had opted to camp on the back lawn of the pub), as nobody wanted to share a double bed with Edwin or Peter (due to snoring), Alan gallantly made his excuses and slept on the floor.

On the Sunday we returned bright and early (well early anyway) to the Cornel Level, where Alan and Neal descended 2 levels of No.2

Shaft to establish a 'base' before attempting to go further. Kelvin took Jim down the nearby winze to the ledge to show him the artefacts, then attempted to photograph the fog. Peter, Edwin and Steve doing a stalwart job throughout the day of life-lining etc.

Later in the day after Neal and Alan had secured the 'base', Kelvin descended to that level while Neal and Alan continued on down to the bottom level. Despite the large amount of water falling down to the lower levels the level was found to be only about 6 to 18 inches deep between Nos. 1 and 2 shafts.

While Neal and Alan were exploring the lower level, Kelvin attempted to photograph the 'base station' which was a mirror image of the higher level, being a level and stope (in this case the bottom of a stope) divided by a rock pillar. Unfortunately the ends of the levels either side of the pillar were blocked by rubbish which had obviously come from the higher stope collapse.

In the 'base station' chamber by No. 2 shaft were several shovels, another 3-sided truck, a set of points in the rails and an ore chute which had partially collapsed. Unfortunately as with other places, the fog adversely affected the pictures.

After enjoying another excellent and much needed meal at the 'Half Way House' and taking one last look at the old photographs on the wall, we wended our weary way home.

## Chunnel

If you were slightly sceptical about the claims made by Eurotunnel, about how simple it was to build the Channel Tunnel you will be interested to learn that the cost of the tunnel has just risen by £350m due to engineering delays and extra management costs (have they actually started on the real tunnel yet?).

The £750m raised by Eurotunnel from shareholders has already been used up and they are now drawing on loans from banks. However they are still dismissing the actual construction as trivial and plan to open on time in 1993.

As an aside it is interesting to note that none of the firms involved in the tunnel are mining firms.

## Heinz Minez

Heinz has brought the only English cape - Cape Cornwall, to preserve it for the continued enjoyment of the British public.

Designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and also a Grade 1 Nature Conservation Review (NCR) site, Cape Cornwall has a rich variety of wildlife not to mention the mining and archaeological remains.

The land is to be owned and cared for by the National Trust, which has been concerned to preserve the cape from the threat of development and over-commercialisation.

Heinz has also made an endowment to cover wardening, management and maintenance costs.

Apart from the superb views from the cape, it harbours remains of Cape Cornwall Copper and Tin mine and was used for the setting of the 'Poldark' television series.

Part of the plans for the cape include the restoration of the mine and its 65ft water wheel.

## Shaugh Bridge, Devon

(201 SX 5337 6374)

Situated by Dewerstone Rock, just within the Dartmoor National Park, are the unimpressive remains of a ferro-ceramic mine, which once produced poor quality ore for brick making.

The site basically consists of a few undulations and mounds between the junction of the rivers Plym and Meavy. Parts of some buildings remain on the mine site along with a possible run-in adit. The striking feature of the area is the odd red colour of the ground, no doubt due to the iron. The site is now owned by the National Trust who have undertaken some preservation and construction of paths.

In the car park by Shaugh Bridge are the substantial remains of Clay Dries dated '1895'. By following the footpath from here over the river Plym then walking upstream beside the Meavy, through the mine site, an open adit entrance can be found almost hidden by a clump of tree roots. Once inside, the level is about 5' high and unlined.

## Shaugh Bridge Cont..

At the time of the visit it was not possible to progress far due to the corpse of a goat or large sheep blocking the way, complete with horrendous smell and an amazing 'stream' of maggots moving out of the adit presumably they could not stand the smell!

About 20 feet beyond the corpse the level seemed to change becoming a dark brown earthy colour - thus it may have collapsed or been filled from the surface.

While at the site it is worth walking further up the hill to reach the bed of the Dewerstone Quarry tramway. By following the tramway up a very long incline, complete with numerous granite sleepers, the remains of the drum house (with parts of the drum axle surviving) can be found.

Within about a mile of Shaugh Bridge are several other interesting railway, tramway, Clay-works, mine and quarry features worth exploring if you get the chance.

## Interim Report

"Jackfield and Broseley, fourth interim report of the Nuffield Archaeological Survey of the Ironbridge Gorge" by K.Clark and J.Alfrey. Published by the IGMT June 1988. The report contains some very early material on Shropshire mines, including a plan of "Widdow Comptons Insetts 1675" (Insetts are adit mines).

I.J.Brown

## Mine Sketches

A collection of coloured sketches by Warrington Smythe, one of the earliest mines inspectors has come to light, it contains 10 views of the Shropshire Mining Districts dated 1847. They are offered for sale at £80 to £250 each by Palace Books Ltd of Caernarfon.

Telephone: (0286) 2960

## Man-Engines



When you talk of man-engines - pumping engines that have platforms or footplates, (called 'sollars') fitted to the pump rods so that men can stand on them as the rods move up or down, thus using the pumping rods as a sort of moving staircase. You tend to think of the Isle of Man or more likely Cornwall.

There is also a strong probability that you know of them through the disaster at Levant Tin Mine on the 20th of October 1919, when 31 miners were killed by the pump rod 'cap' snapping causing the pump rods to fall down the shaft killing the men who were climbing the rods at the time.

This disaster effectively called a halt to the practice of using man-engines in Britain (although the one in the Isle of Man continued for sometime afterwards).

However you may not be aware that this method of mine access originated in Germany in the 1830s - its the old German connection again!

# S.C.M. Club Officers

President : David Adams

Chairman : Mike Moore

Secretary : Steve Holding

Treasurer : Bob Taylor

NAHMO Rep.: Mike Moore

Tacklemaster &  
Rescue Officer : Neal Rushton

Newsletter Editor: Kelvin Lake

## Future Trips

As trips are likely to be changed at short notice future trip details will not be printed in Below. For information about any trip contact Steve Holding.

